

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04675

EXDIS

FOR COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, TU, US
SUBJECT: TURKEY AND NATO

1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS TO LIFT
THE TURKISH EMBARGO IS ON PEOPLES MINDS HERE, AND SYG
LUNS TOOK THE MATTER UP WITH ME TWICE YESTERDAY. IN
HIS FIRST APPROACH HE ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT HIS URGENT
CONCERN OVER THE TURKISH SITUATION AND THE CRUCIAL
IMPORTANCE OF EARLY AND FAVORABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.
I TOLD HIM THE ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT
ON THE ISSUE AND IS WORKING HARD AT IT. HE SAID HE
RECOGNIZED THAT, BUT HE WANTED TO GO FARTHER AND URGE
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ISSUE A STRONG STATEMENT ON THE
MATTER. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CONGRESS IS CLOSELY
DIVIDED ON THE MATTER. A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WOULD
SHOW THE TURKS THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION WAS IN THE
FIGHT ALL THE WAY AND MAKING A MAXIMUM EFFORT. IF EVEN
THAT SHOULD FAIL, THEN THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL AND
PUBLIC COMMITMENT WOULD MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO THE TURKS
AND WOULD TEND TO RESTRAIN THEM FROM BOILING OVER AND
TAKING EXTREME DECISIONS. THEREFORE HE URGED A STRONG
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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

2. LATER IN THE DAY LUNS CAME BACK TO THE SUBJECT TO
REPORT A CONVERSATION WITH PERMREP KIRCA. KIRCA HAD
TAKEN THE POSITION WITH HIM THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT
DOES NOT BELIEVE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING
AS STRONG AN EFFORT AS IT SHOULD TO ENSURE REMOVAL OF

EMBARGO. WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION HAD GONE ALL OUT, AS IN THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY CASE, IT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THE TURKS DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THAT KIND OF EFFORT WAS BEING MADE ON THE EMBARGO LEGISLATION. IF THE PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUED, THEN ECEVIT WOULD BE A VERY DIFFICULT CUSTOMER AT THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT. HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO MAKE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD "VETO" ALL ACTION BY THE SUMMIT.

3. KIRCA, WHO IS A COMBATIVE MAN GIVEN TO STRONG RHETORIC, LET HIMSELF GO SEVERAL TIMES DURING DPC CONSIDERATION YESTERDAY OF LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM. IN A NUMBER OF INTERVENTIONS HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS CHARGING USG WITH UNJUST AND UNFAIR TREATMENT OF TURKEY AND AT ONE POINT STRESSED THAT "ALL LEVELS" OF USG SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN THE EFFORT TO REMOVE THE TURKISH EMBARGO.

4. COMMENT: I DO NOT WANT TO GIVE TOO MUCH WEIGHT TO KIRCA'S DRAMATICS -- AND HE IS ON HIS WAY OUT FROM NATO WITH OLCAY ANNOUNCED TO REPLACE HIM -- BUT LUNS' PLEA IS A SERIOUS ONE. YOU WILL KNOW BEST HOW TO FIT IT IN TO THE CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE THE TURKISH EMBARGO. HOWEVER, WITHOUT SOME PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AT HIGHEST LEVEL, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE GROWING FEELING AMONG OUR ALLIES AT NAC THAT WE ARE NOT MAKING FULL EFFORT. BENNETT

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